

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00061 150609Z

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ACTION SS-25

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O 150522Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 773

S E C R E T MUSCAT 061

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MARR, MU, US
SUBJECT: GENERAL CREASEY'S VIEWS ON FMS FOR OMAN

REF: MUSCAT 060

1. AS DEPARTMENT KNOWS FROM REFTEL, COMMANDER OF SULTAN'S ARMED FORCES (CSAF) GENERAL CREASEY PROFESSES COMPLETE IGNORANCE OF TOW MISSILE. SINCE THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION FOR SO LONG AND WITH SUCH A FULL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION, IT IS LIKELY THAT HE IS BEING A BIT DIS-INGENUOUS. WE KNOW THAT HE HAS NEVER ATTACHED GREAT MILITARY IMPORTANCE TO RECEIPT OF TOW PER SE. HIS PRESENT ATTITUDE IS SEEN AS A CLEAR SIGNAL THAT HE CONSIDERS DECISION REACHED DURING SULTAN'S WASHINGTON VISIT TO HAVE BEEN BASED ON POLITICAL, RATHER THAN MILITARY, CONSIDER-ATIONS.

2. BE THAT AS IT MAY, CREASEY IS DELIGHTED BY LATEST DEVELOPMENTS. HE IS PERCEPTIVE ENOUGH TO RECOGNIZE THAT SUPPLYING OF TOW CONSTITUTES A CHANGE IN PREVIOUS USG POLICY OF ALOOFNESS FROM INVOLVEMENT IN DHOFAR REBELLION. WE CAN BE SURE THAT HE WILL TAKE LINE WITHIN OMANGOV CIRCLES THAT TOW DECISION OPENS THE DOOR FOR FURTHER FMS SALES.

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3. BEFORE WE ARE HIT BY A PLETHORA OF REQUESTS

FOR MATERIEL ASSISTANCE, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO DEFINE
POST-TOW USG POLICY IN TERMS WHICH CAN BE COMMUNICATED
AT CSAF LEVEL. (OF COURSE THIS ASPECT OF POLICY MAY
HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED DURING WASHINGTON MEETINGS IN
SUCH A WAY THAT ISSUE WILL BE RESOLVED WHEN SULTAN
RETURNS TO OMAN.)
ZWEIFEL

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